Applicability of Freights Equalisation Scheme

350. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) which are the items for which the freight equalisation scheme is applicable at present;

(b) whether some State Governments have demanded extension of the scheme for some other items also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) to (c) At present the freight equalisation scheme is applicable to steel and cement. In 1973, some State Governments suggested freight equalisation for raw cotton. A Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Commerce to examine this proposal. After considering various implications, the committee found it difficult to recommend any freight equalisation scheme for raw-cost cotton. It, however, requested the Planning Commission to undertake a study in the overall context of freight equalisation of such commodities as steel, cement etc. Accordingly, an Interministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Marathe, then Secretary, Industrial Department, was set up primarily to study the scope and feasibility and adoption of Freight Equalisation Policy for raw cotton. The Committee came to the conclusion that it would not be advisable to do so. The Group further recommended that the Freight Equalisation Scheme need not be extended to any other commodity and that the existing schemes be phased out over a period of time.

The Freight Equalisation Scheme again came up for review by the National Transport Policy Committee (Pande Committee). This Committee also expressed its view against extending the Freight Equalisation Scheme to any other commodity. On the other hand, it recommended that even the existing schemes of Freight Equalisation on Industrial Commodities like steel and cement be phased out. Government have already accepted these recommendations, subject to subsidisation of transport to remote inaccessible and isolated areas. Modalities and time phasing of withdrawal of Freight Equalisation are under consideration of Government.

Deficiency of teaching staff in NDA, Pune

351. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that deficiency of teaching staff in the National Defence Academy has been persisting for long ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regards stating the period for which the deficiency has been continuing and the extent to which the teaching schedule has been disturbed as a consequence thereof ; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to fill up the vacant posts in the Academy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMNT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The posts of 7 professors, 8 Readers and 37 Lecturers have not been filled on regular basis since 1985. *Ad hoc* appointments, on short-term basis,

are made from time to time to ensure that the teaching schedule is not disturbed.

(c) Expeditious steps are under process to fill up the vacancies on a regular basis.

Pakistani President's accusations of Violating Shimla Agreement by India

352. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent utterances of Pakistan's President, made in an interview to London's New life, accusing India of violating the Shimla agreement by unilaterally occupying Siachin Glacier as reported in a section of the Indian press recently; and

(b) If so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. In the interview, President Zia claimed that in regard to the Siachin Glacier, it was India who has violated the Shimla Agreement.

(b) The Siachin Glacier and the area adjoining it is an integral part of the territory of the Indian State Jammu and Kashmir and has always been under India's administration and control.

Concentration of Pakistani Troops in Pak-held area of Jammu and Kashmir

353. SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA :
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent heavy concentration of Pakistani troops in Poonch, Rajouri and Hajipeer sectors recently and intensification of its military activities in Pak-held area of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Government have seen media reports to this effect; but there is no evidence to suggest any unusual movement or concentration of Pakistani troops in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK).

(b) Government keep a close watch on all development having a bearing on our security with a view to taking appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

Taking of Prisoner/Undertrials out of Tihar Jail on conducted tours

354. SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA :
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Indian Express' of 28th March, 1986 highlighting the